

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. AMONG INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH GROC RETAINS MEMBERSHIP IS THE AFRO-ASIAN RURAL RECONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION (AARRO). ROC WAS ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN 1968 AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SINCE 1971. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1961 AND HEADQUARTERED IN NEW DELHI, IS TO FACILITATE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND TO PROMOTE COOPERATIVE ACTION TOWARDS REVITALIZ

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ING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THEIR RURAL POPULATIONS. IT HOLDS A GENERAL CONFERENCE EVERY THREE YEARS. KOREA HOSTED FIFTH CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY 1975; SIXTH CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN CAIRO, EGYPT.

2. WITH OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF EXCLUDING ROC FROM ORGANIZATION, ATTEMPT WAS MADE AT FIFTH CONFERENCE TO AMEND AARRO CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT MEMBERSHIP TO COUNTRIES ALSO HOLDING MEMBERSHIP TO UN. ROC DELEGATION OVERCAME THIS THREAT BY SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCING MEMBERSHIP IN AARRO NEED NOT REAPPLY FOR ADMISSION. ATTEMPT BY NEWLY-ADMITTED YEMEN TO UNSEAT ROC IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO WAS DEFEATED (SOMEWHAT TO ROC DEL'S OWN SURPRISE). ROC DEL HAD BEEN PREPARED TO DROP OUT OF RACE ON ASSUMPTION THAT IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE DEFEATED WHEN ISSUE CAME TO A VOTE. AT THAT TIME ONLY FIVE OF SIXTEEN VOTING COUNTRIES AT CONFERENCE

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HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROC. HOWEVER, ROC WAS NOMINATED

FOR REELECTION BY KENYA, AND ON THIRD BALLOT DEFEATED YEMEN BY VOTE OF 9 TO 7. ALTHOUGH BALLOTING WAS SECRET, ROC DEL BELIEVED WINNING VOTES (IN ADDITION TO ITS OWN) WERE CAST BY PHILIPPINES, KOREA, VIETNAM, KHMER REPUBLIC (ALL OF WHOM STILL RECOGNIZED GROC), LIBERIA, JAPAN, KENYA AND MAURITIUS. SUPPORT BY KENYA AND MAURITIUS WAS ATTRIBUTED TO FAVORABLE INFLUENCE OF ROC AGRICULTURAL MISSIONS SERVING IN AFRICA.

3. ROC ANTICIPATES THAT EFFORT TO OUST IT FROM AARRO WILL BE RENEWED AT NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE. IT HOPES AGAIN TO RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION BUT IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT KEEPING SEAT ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, GROC WILL CONTINUE TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION. IN FEBRUARY 1976 IT SIGNED AGREEMENT TO CARRY OUT FOUR PROJECTS INVOLVING (1) INVITATION TO 15 FARMERS FROM AARRO COUNTRIES TO VISIT TAIWAN FOR OBSERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM; (2) FORMATION OF TWO 10-DAY SEMINARS IN TAIWAN FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND/OR AGRICULTURALISTS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES; (3) AWARD OF THREE SCHOLARSHIPS TO AGRICULTURALISTS FROM ENGLISH-SPEAKING MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR TRAINING IN RICE CULTURE IN TAIWAN; AND (4) AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED TRAINING, UPON REQUEST, FOR TECHNICIANS AND FARMERS. UNGER

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